

Willing to Walk

LESSON FOR YOUTH OR ALL AGES

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Gather

Activates background knowledge, prepares, and motivates for lesson

Show how interconnected we can become in community, and how we can work together to become a harmonious whole. Form a circle (or circles) of not more than a dozen people, holding hands. Drop hands and reach into the circle with right hands to grab someone else's right hand. Then reach into the circle with left hands to grab another's left hand. By now you are hopelessly entangled. Talk one another through a series of maneuvers—over, under, around, and through the “knots”—to untangle.

How does your relationship with others—talking to and supporting one another—bring about blessing?

Engage

Invites exploration and interaction

Watch the video *Willing to Walk* and discuss the following:

- What transformation took place in Richard's life?
- What caused this transformation?

Consider a time when you had a similar experience with someone. (Share in groups of two or three or as a full group.)

- How did you first view the person who differed from you?
- What changed how you felt about the person who differed from you?

Respond

Takes the learners from hearing to doing

Have someone read aloud the following scripture.

Do not be defined by the things that separate you but by the things that unite you in Jesus Christ.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:5a

On a white board, poster, or large piece of paper, list ways Richard and Pastor Edgar differ and ways they are the same.

Consider Richard's story in the context of family, school, work, team, or congregation. Record in a journal responses to the following or share in small groups of two or three. Invite those who would like to share their responses with the larger group.

- In the context you have chosen, who is your “Pastor Edgar?”

- How do you and this person differ?
- How are you the same?
- How does Richard's story inspire you to view this person differently?
- How does Richard's story challenge or affirm your understanding of shalom?

Send

Explores how the lesson might be lived out

Provide each person with a note card or slip of paper and a pencil, pen, or marker.

Have someone read aloud the following words of counsel.

Beloved Community of Christ, do not just speak and sing of Zion. Live, love, and share as Zion...

—Stephen M. Veazey, Words of Counsel, April 2013

Write a statement of commitment about how you will live, love, and share as Zion with a person in your community who is like Pastor Edgar was to Richard. Share responses with the group or keep as personal reminders.

Bless

Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and hope

Our community blesses us and is sustained through the prayerful blessings we offer for and with one another. Use this prayer practice to invite God's blessings in expanding circles like a pebble making ripples in water. Choose four prayer phrases that reflect God's shalom. Repeat them over and over. For instance:

- Bless me with health and happiness,
- Lead me in the ways of peace,
- Fill me with loving kindness,
- Let me radiate Christ's joy.

First, pray for yourself by repeating the prayer phrases one after the other like this:

- May I be healthy and well,
- May I feel safe and happy,
- May I be filled with loving kindness,
- May I be radiant with the joy of Christ.

Then, offer the same phrases for someone who has loved you unconditionally: Bless (person's name) with health and happiness... (add prayer phrases). Next, pray the same blessings for a close friend, and then pray for someone who is your “Pastor Edgar.” You may choose to expand the prayer as fitting for the group.